



The Military Child in Transition and Deployment

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State Liaison Office

Military Community & Family Policy

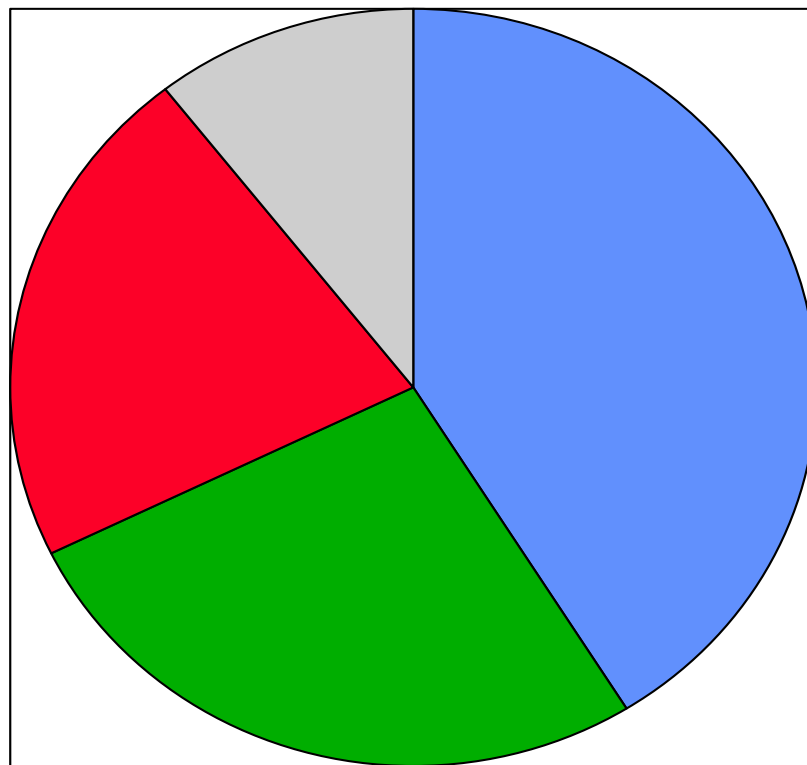
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Military Students by Grade Level



Primary Intermediate
Junior High High School





Who Are Military Families?

The following chart provides a demographic snap shot of military families: [\[1\]](#)

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACTIVE DUTY	RESERVE & GUARD
# married	52%	51%
# dual-military marriage	7%	5%
# females	15%	17%
# with children	44%	41%
# single parents	6%	8%
# of children birth-5	483,514 (40%)	177,888 (25%)
# of children 6-11	394,971 (32%)	225,617 (31%)
# of children 12-14	157,777 (13%)	114,535 (16%)
# of children 15-18	139,861 (12%)	124,576 (17%)
#minorities	36%	28%

[\[1\]](#) Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense 2002 Demographics Report, Military Family Resource Center
<http://www.mfrc-dodqol.org/stat.cfm>



*“Military kids say
good-bye to more
significant people by
age 18 than most adults
do in a lifetime.”*



TRANSITION

2001 Army Survey

- * 71% of officers and 78% of enlisted report problems for children due to PCS moves.
- * 44% had difficulty making social adjustments
- * 29% reported timing of the move had a negative effect on participation in school-sponsored activities
- * 29% fell behind in coursework
- * 27% felt under-challenged at the new school
- * 25% lost credit for completed courses



TRANSITION ISSUES

- **Social and Emotional Needs**
- **Transfer of Services for Special Education**
- **Incompatible Graduation Requirements**
- **Redundant/Missed Entrance and Exit Testing**
- **Transfer of Coursework and Grades**
- **Transfer of Records**
- **Exclusion from Extra-curricular Activities**

Department of Defense

www.MilitaryStudent.org



**FOR MILITARY KIDS
ON THE MOVE!**

MilitaryStudent.org

[The Issues](#)[Kids
\(6-12 yrs\)](#)[Teens
\(13+years\)](#)[Parents](#)[Special Needs
Families](#)[Military
Leaders](#)[School
Educators](#)[Search Military Student web site](#)[Advanced Search](#)

Promising Practices web site

The Department of Defense hosts a web site for states, schools, military leaders and families of transitioning military students. This web site showcases **Promising Practices**: an opportunity for state governments and local school districts to share programs, procedures, and practices designed to make transition from school to school more efficient, more effective, and less traumatic for students of military personnel. [More On Promising Practices](#)

[Department Of Defense Publications](#)

What's New:

[New Features in Promising Practices Book](#)

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War Shadows School Near Fort Hood

Loneliness, Anxiety Grip Students and Staff While Family Members Are Assigned to Iraq

By Lee Hockstader

KILLEEN, Tex. The class bell rings at Shoemaker High, and hundreds of students spill into the halls under a constellation of stars.

The stars are cardboard slabs of blue and silver, the school's colors, and they hang from the ceiling. On each is written the





On-Line EDUCATOR COURSE

AUDIENCE:

- Teachers and Administrators
- Guidance Counselors
- School Psychologists

OBJECTIVE:

- Awareness of social, emotional and academic needs of the military child.
- Strategies and techniques to support students:
 - ◆ Connectedness
 - ◆ Coping Skills
 - ◆ Intervention Techniques
 - ◆ **TARGET DATE:** Fall of '05





National Center for the Education of the Military Child

- Johns Hopkins University

- Connectedness Research and the Impact on Academic Success**
- School/Home Partnership Research and the Impact on Academic Success**
- Resources for Military Families**
- Best Practices and Resources for the Public Schools**
- Work with Parent and School Groups**
- Advocacy for Military Child Education**



RESEARCH STUDY

Social and Academic Adjustment of Children and Adolescents in Military Families After a Permanent Change of Station

Includes:

- All Services
- Kindergarten through 12th Grade
- Longitudinal

Purpose:

- Determine Factors Associated with Successful Adjustment to Relocation
- Explore the Adjustment Cycle Concept
- Determine the Impact on Retention of Military Members

Installations: Fort Campbell, KY; Naval Base Kitsap, WA;
Barksdale AF Base, LA; Camp Pendleton, CA



FORTHCOMING MILITARY FAMILY MOBILITY and the IMPACT ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- **Global Rebasing**
- **BRAC**
- **Army Modularization**
- **Possible closing of some
DoD schools in the US**



DoD TOOLKITS

Provides the knowledge and resources to act in a timely, well-informed and productive manner

Contains checklists, links, organizations, best practices, how to, where to...

Designed for

- **Families on the Move**
- **Commanders of Impacted Installations**
- **Superintendents of Impacted School Districts**



IN TIME OF WAR

*In the last 3,421 years of recorded history, only
268 years have seen no war.*

"She stopped going to see him because every time she went, she thought it was good-bye and then his deployment was delayed again."

"The hardest part of deployment was seeing their grades drop from straight A's to A's, B's and C's..."

"Reunion after deployment is tough."

"While my dad was away, everyone changed. When he came home, everyone stepped on each others' toes."



DEPLOYMENT ISSUES

•Social and Emotional Needs

- Feelings of anxiety, fear, worries about personal safety**
- Worries about violence, harm, injury and death of deployed family member**
- Changes or exaggerated behavior**
- Increased activity level**
- Decreased concentration or attention**
- Whininess, irritability or moodiness**
- Accident prone**



DEPLOYMENT ISSUES

•Social and Emotional Needs (Continued)

- Increased somatic complaints (headaches, stomachaches, nausea)
- Changed sleeping patterns
- Difficulty separating from the parent

•Academic Needs

- Performance declines
- Absenteeism or school phobia



Student Adjustment During Deployment

RISK FACTORS

- **Age (5-10 years usually most vulnerable)**
- **Gender**
 - **Males more at risk for acting out behavior**
 - **Females more at risk for internal problems**
- **Family support**
- **Length of absence (longer absence more difficult)**
- **Cause (war time as opposed to peace time)**



SIGNS OF HELP

- *INTENSITY*
- *FREQUENCY*
- *DURATION*





***“A wounded military member
is a wounded family.”***

National Military Family Association



Children of Wounded Parents

- **Camp Pendleton
Pilot with UCLA**
- **Walter Reed Task
Force**
- **NQCC & NCTSR
Caregiving
Curriculum for
Children**
- **Camp**





DoD PUBLICATIONS

- **Educators Guide to the Military Child During Deployment**
- **Educators Guide to the Military Child During Post-Deployment: Challenges of Family Reunion and Readjustment**
- **Parents Guide to Military Children in Deployment and Reunion**

See www.MilitaryStudent.org



NEW PUBLICATION

Caring for Kids in Trauma and Death: A Guide for Parents and Professionals

– Dr. Robin Goodman



www.MilitaryStudent.org

